

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 AID-20 DPW-01

SR-02 ORM-03 RSR-01 /133 W
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O R 160900 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 205

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRAG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 SAIGON 6407

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT, APRIL 14-16, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
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THE EMBASSY AS OF 1700 APRIL 16, AND COVERS THE PERIOD
APRIL 14-16, 1973.

SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS

PART I; ICCS: HELICOPTER CRASH INVESTIGATION CONTINUES; CANDEL CHIEF BLAST " NON- SOUTH VIETNAMESE" TROOPS AS PROBABLE PERPETRATORS.

PART II: TPJMC: IMPASSE OVER TONG LE CHAN, RVN CONCERN AT HONG NGU, HUE SITUATIONS.

PART III: RVN/ NLF BILATERALS: GVN ACCUSES COMMUNISTS OF STALLING IN PREPARATION FOR A NEW OFFENSIVE.

PART IV: HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA: COMMUNISTS BLAST GAUVIN FOR STATEMENT ON HELICOPTER CRASH.

PART V: MR-1: ACTIVITY NW OF HUE; ARVN 2 ND DIV. COMMANDER PREDICTS MID- MAY OFFENSIVE.

PART VI: MR-2: CHIEF CANDEL MILREP ON QUANG TRI TRAGEDY.

PART VII: MR-3: COMMUNISTS TRY TO BULLY RANGERS AT TONG LE CHAN.

PART VIII: MR-4: MEKONG CONVOY BREAKS THROUGH.

PART I: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION (ICCS)

1. DURING APRIL 13 PLENARY CANDEL CHIEF AMBASSADOR GAUVIN SPOKE FORCEFULLY OF THE NEED TO FIND ALL THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE QUANG TRI TRAGEDY IN ORDER TO PREVENT ITS REPETITION. WHILE NOT NAMING THE DRV OR THE NVA EXPLICITLY, AMBASSADOR GAUVIN ASSERTED A " REASONABLE POSSIBILITY" THAT THE DEATHS WERE CAUSED NOT BE EITHER SVN PARTY BUT RATHER " AT THE HANDS OF TROOPS WHOSE PRESENCE IN SVN IS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THE AGREEMENT." HE ALSO ALLEGED EVIDENCE THAT " NON- SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS" HAVE INFILTRATED AND ARE IN SVN IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT. THIS IS THE STRONGEST (IF INDIRECT) CANADIAN CHARGE OF DRV VIOLATIONS OF THE AGREEMENT TO DATE. COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA HAS REACTED STRONGLY, ATTACKING AMBASSADOR GAUVIN PERSONALLY
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(SEE PART IV).

2. A PRELIMINARY ICCS INVESTIGATION OF THE HELICOPTER SHOOTDOWN HAS CONVINCED THE INVESTIGATORS THAT THE HELICOPTERS WERE DOWNED ABOUT WHERE THE PRG CLAIMS, I. E., ABOUT 40 KILOMETERS OFF COURSE. THE AMERICAN PILOTS DENY THIS. THE PRINCIPAL ISSUE IS OF COURSE NOT WHERE THE HELICOPTERS WERE WHEN THEY DREW FIRE, BUT WHY THE PRG, WHICH PROVIDED LIAISON OFFICERS, AN ON- BOARD NAVIGATOR, AND GUARANTEES OF SAFETY, SHOT THEM DOWN. THE

INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT
HELICOPTER FLIGHTS CONTINUE, AND OTHER FLIGHTS WITH SPECIAL
PERMISSION.

3. A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION TOOK PLACE APRIL 15 BEFORE THE ICCS
SECRETARIAT BUILDING IN SAIGON BY ABOUT 1,000 RELATIVES OF TROOPS
STATIONED AT TONG LE CHAN. THEY PRESENTED A PETITION TO ICCS
CHAIRMAN AMB DHARSANO.

PART II: TWO PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION (TPJMC)

THE CHIEFS OF DELEGATION HELD THEIR FIFTH MEETING ON APRIL 13.
BESIDES THE MATTER OF TONG LE CHAN, WHICH REMAINS UNDER SIEGE,
OTHER ISSUES RAISED INCLUDED EXCHANGE OF REMAINING POW' S AND
CIVILIAN DETAINEES, DELIMITATION OF AREAS OF CONTROL, AND
LIAISON FLIGHTS. DISCUSSIONS ON TONG LE CHAN CONTINUE TO BE
DOMINATED BY PRG DEMAND THAT CEASEFIRE BE NEGOTIATED BY " LOCAL
COMMANDERS" ON THE SCENE, A FORMULA WHICH WOULD FORCE THE NEWLY-
PROMOTED MAJOR IN COMMANDE OF BESIEGED BASE TO DEAL WITH AN AS YET
UNIDENTIFIED COMMANDER OF THE REGIMENTAL- SIZED FORCE WHICH SURROUNDS
TONG LE CHAN. RVN HAS INSTEAD PROPOSED DISPATCH OF TWO COLONELS,
ONE FROM EACH SIDE, WHO WOULD HAVE AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE AN
AREA CEASEFIRE; THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN REJECTED BY PRG. GIVEN
CONTINUING IMPASSE ON TONG LE CHAN, NO PROGRESS ON OTHER
SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES HAS BEEN MADE, ALTHOUGH SUBCOMMITTEES HAVE
BEEN MEETING REGULARLY AND SOME MINOR PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS
HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON. BESIDES TONG LE CHAN, THE RVN DEL HAS
INDICATED THAT IT ATTACHES PARTICULAR SERIOUSNESS TO TWO OTHER
VIOLATIONS BY THE COMMUNISTS: ENEMY PRESSURE ON THE HONG NGU-
TAN CHAU AREA, AND THE FORCED EVACUATION OF SUPPORT BASE HELEN,
22 KMS NORTHWEST OF HUE.

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PART III: GVN ACCUSES PRG OF STALLING BILATERALS IN PREPARATION
FOR NEW MILITARY OFFENSIVE

OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS ARTICLE DATELINED PARIS REPORTS PRESS
CONFERENCE HELD BY GVN CHIEF DELEGATE TO GVN/ PRG BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS

IMMEDIATELY AFTER SIXTH PLENARY MEETING APRIL 12. ACCORDING TO
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THIS REPORT VIEN TOLD PRESS THAT PRG, NOW REALIZING IT WOULD
FARE BADLY IN GENERAL ELECTIONS IS DELIBERATELY STALLING THE
NEGOTIATIONS AND PREPARING FOR A NEW GENERAL MILITARY OFFENSIVE.

PART IV: HANOI/ VC PROPAGANDA

1. HANOI AND VIET CONG MEDIA
HAVE ROUNDLY CRITICIZED CANADIAN AMBASSADOR GAUVINS' STATEMENT
ON APR 13 IN WHICH HE ALLEGED THAT THE DOWNING OF THE ICCS
HELICOPTER MAY HAVE BEEN THE ACT OF " TROOPS WHOSE PRESENCE IN
SOUTH VIETNAM WAS NOT STIPULATED IN THE PARIS AGREEMENT."
HANOI' S ARMY NEWSPAPER, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, ON APR 15 ATTEMPTED
TO CONTRAST GAUVIN' S STATEMENT WITH ONE BY EXTAFFMIN SHARP AND
STATED THAT GAUVINS' S ALLUSION TO OUTSIDE FORCES WAS " NOT IN
CONFORMITY WITH THE SPIRIT AND TERMS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT."
THE BROADCAST CLAIMED THAT SINCE MARCH 29 THERE HAVE BEEN
" ONLY TWO ARMIES OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES" AND WENT ON
TO ACCUSE GAUVIN OF ABETTING THE US IN ITS " SCHEME" TO SLANDER
THE COMMUNISTS.

2. THE VIET CONG' S LIBERATION RADIO, IN AN APR 14 BROADCAST,
LABELED GAUVIN' S STATEMENT " AMBIGUOUS", " CONTRARY TO THE TRUTH",
AND " AFFECTING", PRESUMABLY ADVERSELY, " THE STATUS OF AN ICCS

MEMBER". A LIBERATION RADIO BROADCAST APR 15 AS WELL AS THE QUAN DOI NHAN DAN PIECE CITED ABOVE CALLED UPON GAUVIN TO ADOPT AN " OBJECTIVE" ATTITUDE TO HELP FULFILL THE ICCS' " NOBLE" MISSION.

PART V: MR 1

1. THE LEVEL OF COMBAT WAS ERRATIC OVER THE WEEKEND, WITH 29 INCIDENTS ON APRIL 13, 45 ON APRIL 14, AND 20 ON APRIL 15. MOST OF THE ACTIVITY WAS IN THE 1 ST DIV. AO WEST OF HUE; ON APRIL 15, THE 1 ST DIV. WAS THE TARGET OF FOUR ATTACKS AND 26 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF' S), INCLUDING ONE OF 785 ROUNDS ON THE 3 RD BN, 1 ST REG. THE MARINE AO, RUNNING FROM QUANG TRI CITY TO THE SEA, ALSO REPORTED AN ABF ON APRIL 15, THE FIRST SUCH REPORT FROM THE MARINES IN OVER A MONTH. TOTAL CASUALTIES FOR THE THREE DAYS WERE: FRIENDLY, 20 KIA, 203 WIA AND 4 MIA; ENEMY, 52 KILLED, ONE CAPTURED AND ONE RALLIED.

2. ARVN 2 ND DIVISION COMMANDER BG TRAN VAN NHUT ON APRIL 12 TOLD CONFIDENTIAL

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US REPORTER ROBERT NOVAK THAT HE IS NOT SURPRISED THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE CEASEFIRE TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF ARMS AND MATERIALS IN PREPARATION FOR RENEWED ATTACKS IN THE SOUTH. WHILE HIS TROOPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED EXPLICIT INSTRUCTIONS TO LIMIT THEIR OPERATIONS AS WELL AS THEIR USE OF AMMUNITION, THE COMMUNISTS HAVE CONTINUED TO LAUNCH DAILY ATTACKS, ESPECIALLY AGAINST ARVN AND TERRITORIAL FORCES OUTPOSTS. NHUT SAID HE WOULD DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO DEFEND THE AREAS ALREADY UNDER GVN CONTROL. THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE LAUNCHING OF PRE- EMPTIVE STRIKES AGAINST ANY ENEMY BUILD- UPS THAT DIRECTLY THREATEN HIS TROOPS OR THE GOVERNMENT POPULACE. THE VARIOUS INTELLIGENCE REPORTS NHUT HAS RECEIVED INDICATE THAT THE ENEMY IS PREPARING FOR A NEW OFFENSIVE IN MID- MAY, WITH SA HUYNH BEING THE MAJOR OBJECTIVE. NHUT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE ENEMY WOULD HAVE THE PLEASURE OF CELEBRATING HO CHI MINH' S BIRTHDAY (MAY 19) IN SA HUYNH.

3. MR-1 G-2 REPORTS THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE STARTED CONSTRUCTION ON A SECOND RUNWAY AT KHE SANH PARALLEL TO THE EXISTING RUNWAY.

4. THE COMMUNISTS RELEASED 51 ARVN PW' S TO ARVN UNITS IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE.

5. DURING PLENARY SESSION ON APRIL 12, THE REGION I ICCS (HUE) AGREED TO FORWARD THE GVN REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF SITUATION AT OBSERVATION POST HELEN (HOANG HAU), WHICH HAS BEEN ABANDONED BY THE GVN UNDER STRONG ENEMY PRESSURE. THE ACTION WAS FAIRLY EXPEDITIOUS AND SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMMODATED POLDEL AND HUNGDEL OBJECTIONS.

6. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION CONVEYED TO POLOFF QUANG NAM BY AN RF SOLIDER AND CONFIRMED BY A SECTOR OFFICER, AN RF UNIT WAS REMOVED TO THE PROVINCE CAPITAL OSTENSIBLY ON GROUNDS OF MALARIA, BUT, IN FACT, BECAUSE OF ACCOMMODATION WITH THE VIET CONG. THE UNIT HAD BEEN OPERATING IN QUE SON DISTRICT, SOME 30 KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF HOI AN, OPPOSITE LARGE VC UNITS ON AN ADJOINING HILL 200 METERS DISTANT. THE VC WOULD CALL FOR PERMISSION TO MOVE TROOPS OR SUPPLIES DOWN THE TRAIL SEPARATING THE UNITS, OCCASIONALLY REQUIRING TWO HOURS. WHEN ONCE FIRED ON, THE VC SURROUNDED THE RF UNIT AND ONLY RETIRED WHEN ASSURED THE SHOOTING WAS AN ACCIDENT.

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7. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF INCREASING COMMUNIST ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN QUANG NGAI. ENEMY PURCHASES OF GOODS HAVE NOTICEABLY INCREASED; ACCORDING TO LOCAL PRESIDENTS, THE NVA/ VC ARE PAYING NEARLY DOUBLE THE LOCAL MARKET RATE FOR RICE. THEY ARE ALSO IN THE MARKET FOR MEDICAL SUPPLIES, VEHICLES, BICYCLES, AND WATER PUMPS. GVN TROOPS IN SOME AREAS HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO PREVENT TRADING OF THIS NAUTRE, INDICATING THAT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF EXCHANGE IS SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT GVN CONCERN.

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y T E X T

PART VI: MR 2

1. EXCEPT FOR NORTHERN BINH DINH, REGION WAS GENERALLY QUIET OVER WEEKEND. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN PAST 72 HOURS CONTINUED AT APPROXIMATELY SAME LEVEL AND IN SAME AREAS AS DURING PRECEDING CONFIDENTIAL

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WEEK TO TEN DAYS. THIRTY- FOUR ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED DURING PERIOD, WITH 26 IN NORTHERN DISTRICTS OF BINH DINH AND REMAINDER SCATTERED THROUGH PLEIKU, PHU YEN, NINH THUAN AND BINH THUAN. AGGREGATE CASUALTIES: RVNAF, 29 KIDA, 16 WIA; ENEMY, 18 KIA, ONE CAPTURED. ALL INCIDENTS WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE OR MININGS EXCEPT FOR TWO BELOW.

2. FIRST OF THESE OCCURRED AT 0415 ON APRIL 13, AN ENEMY GROUND ASSAULT, SUPPORTED BY MORTAR FIRE, ON A RANGER COMPANY OUTPOST IN TAM QUANG DISTRICT, BINH DINH. ENEMY PENETRATED RANGER PERIMETER, KILLED 14 AND WOUNDED ONE. ENEMY LOSSES UNKNOWN. SECOND MAJOR INCIDENT WAS ENEMY SHOOT- DOWN OF VNAF HELICOPTER ON RESUPPLY MISSION OVER HOAI NHON DISTRICT, BINH DINH, AT 1245 HOURS APRIL 14. VNAF CREW OF FOUR AND THREE ARVN PASSENGERS WERE KILLED AND CHOPPER TOTALLY DESTROYED.

3. KONTUM POLOFF REPORTS THAT ACTIVITY PICKED UP IN AREA WSW OF KONTUM CITY (DISCUSSED IN SEVERAL RECENT SITREPS) ON APRIL 13, WHEN ENEMY MORTARED RF POSITIONS (NO CASUALTIES) AND GVN RESPONDED WITH 300 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY.

4. BAN ME THUOT POLOFF REPORTS THAT TEN PERSONS WERE FOUND SHOT BND KILLED ON APRIL 12 APPROX 15 KMS FROM THE CITY. THEY WERE DISTRICT S-2 AND HIS INTELLIGENCE SERGEANT (BOTH IN MUFTI) AND EIGHT CIVILIAN LOGGERS. THEY COULD HAVE BEEN ON INTELLIGENCE- GATHERING MISSION, BUT LOCAL RUMOR HOLDS THAT THEIR PURPOSE WAS MORE AVARICIOUS. IS NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME WHETHER PERPETRATORS WERE ENEMY TROOPS OR IRATE MONTAGNARDS RESENTFUL OF VIETNAMESE LOGGING OPERATIONS ON THEIR LAND. CHIEF OF GVN

ELEMENT OF LOCAL TPJMT VOLUNTEERED VIEW THAT FULRO CADRE WERE RESPONSIBLE. POLOFF NOTES THAT AREA IS DOTTED WITH MONTAGNARD VILLAGES WHOSE INDEPENDENT- MINDED INHABITANTS STRONGLY SUPPORT FULRO. (COMMENT: FULRO IS MONTAGNARD POLITICAL MOVEMENT, ONCE ARMED AND INFLUENTIAL IN THE HIGHLANDS BUT RECENTLY QUIESCENT.)

5. CANADIAN SENIOR MILITARY ADVISOR, MAJ. GEN. MC ALPINE, SPENT WEEKEND VISITING CANDELS AT ICCS SITES IN CEASEFIRE REGION III (PLEIKU). HE TOLD NHA TRANG POLOFF HE BELIEVES APRIL 7 HELICOPTER INCIDENT HAS RUN ITS COURSE AFTER WIDESPREAD PRESS COVERAGE AND INITIAL REACTIONS OF SHOCK AND ANGER. WHATEVER ICCS REPORTS EMERGE FROM INVESTIGATION WILL CONFIDENTIAL

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BE ANTI- CLIMACTIC, HE BELIEVES. MC ALPINE SAID INCIDENT RAISES QUESTIONS NOT ONLY OF OVER- ALL PRG INTENTIONS AND OF ITS GOOD WILL TOWARD PEACE- KEEPING MACHINERY, BUT ALSO OF PRG' S ABILITY TO CONTROL UNITS ALLEGEDLY UNDER ITS COMMAND. WITH RESPECT TO CANADA' S CONTINUING IN ICCS, INCIDENT WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BUT WILL NOT BE A MAJOR FACTOR, IN MC ALPINE' S VIEW. HE FURTHER EXPRESSED CONVICTION THAT ONLY INTERESTED PARTY WITH POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING EFFECTIVENES OF PEACE- KEEPING MACHINERY IS US. CANADA CAN ASSUME HARD- DRIVING POSTURE WITHIN ICCS, BUT US PRESSURES ON WARSAW AND BUDAPEST ARE OF MUCH GREATER CONSEQUENCE.

6. ICCS TEAM IN CHEO REO IS ABOUT TO FORWARD ITS FIRST REPORT TO REGION III HQS. TEAM SPLIT IN PREDICTABLE TWO- TWO FASHION. POLDEL AND HUNGDEL TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF INCOMPETENT GVN PREPARATION. (AS REPORTED SAIGON 6284, APRIL 13 SITREP, AND NHA TRANG 396, GVN IS NOW EXERCISING MORE CARE IN THE PREPARATION OF COMPLAINTS FOR ICCS CONSIDERATION.)

7. RANKING CHEO REO HUNGDEL IS REPORTEDLY UNHAPPY WITH INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO CONCUR IN ANY DECISION CONDEMNATORY OF PRG/ DRV REGARDLESS OF THE FACTS. HE BELIEVES ICCS COULD PLAY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IF ALLOWED TO FUNCTION OBJECTIVELY.

8. TUY AN TEAM HAS FORWARDED TO PLEIKU ITS REPORT ON INVESTIGATION OF VC AMBUSH OF NHA TRANG- TUY HOA TRAIN IN PHU YEN ON MARCH 20. THERE IS NO INFO AVAILABLE AS YET ON CONCLUSIONS OF REPORT.

9. DARLAC PROVINCE CHIEF PLANS TO INITIATE NEW ROUND OF DISTRICT ORIENTATION TOURS FOR ICCS TEAM AT BAN ME THUOT. TEAM MEMBERS, EXCEPT FOR HUNGDELS, ARE ALL RECENT ARRIVALS IN PROVINCE.

10. A POLISH INTERPRETER TRANSITING NHA TRANG AFTER COMPLETION OF ONE- MONTH STINT AT DUC CO RELATED THAT HE AND SIX OTHERS ON DUC CO ICCS TEAM CAME DOWN WITH HIGH FEVERS SHORTLY BEFORE HIS

DEPARTURE. HE ATTRIBUTED ILLNESS TO FLIES HOVERING AROUND A MASS OF UNBURIED BODIES NOT FAR FROM THE ICCS BAMBOO HUT. ACCORDING TO INTERPRETER, PRG OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO PLACE SEVERE RESTRICTIONS ON ICCS MOVEMENT. TEAM MEMBERS ASKED TO SEE A VILLAGE WHICH THEY KNEW TO BE SOME TWO KILOMETERS FROM THE COMPOUND. THE PRG RESPONDED THAT NO SUCH VILLAGE EXISTED. PRG CONFIDENTIAL

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ALSO WARNED TEAM MEMBERS NOT TO USE TOILET FACILITIES AFTER NIGHTFALL BECAUSE OF POISONOUS SNAKES. AUDIBLE TO TEAM MEMBERS AT ALL TIMES WAS INTRODUCTION OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT INTO THE AREA. WHEN TEAM MEMBERS MADE INQUIRIES OF PRG OFFICIALS, THEY WERE TOLD THAT WHAT THEY HEARD WAS NOT MILITARY EQUIPMENT, BUT BULLDOZERS. " THERE IS AN INVASION OF BULLDOZERS IN DUC CO." THE INTERPRETER REMARKED. AT ONE POINT, WHEN A GVN AIRSTRIKE WAS UNDER WAY NEAR DUC CO, THE PRG COMMANDER CAME RUNNING INTO THE ICCS COMPOUND TO COMPLAIN OF THE GVN'S CEASEFIRE VIOLATION. " I DON' T SEE ANY VIOLATION," ONE CANDEL RESPONDED; " ALL I HEAR ARE BULLDOZERS*"

PART VII: MR 3

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL APRIL 13-15, WITH 11, 15 AND 8 CONTACTS BEING REPORTED FOR THOSE THREE DAYS. MAJOR ACTIVITY CONTINUED AROUND THE ARVN

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RANGER BASE CAMP AT TON LE CHAN, WHICH REMAINS UNDER SIEGE. THE CAMP TOOK 319, 235, AND 128 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE APRIL 13-15, WOUNDING SEVEN RANGERS. ON APRIL 13 AT 2000, THE NVA, USING LOUDSPEAKERS, TRIED TO PERSUADE THE RANGERS TO GIVE UP THE CAMP. THE NVA CLAIMED TO HAVE THEM COMPLETELY SURROUNDED WITH ANTI- AIRCRAFT GUN, AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD ATTACK ANY AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER THE AREA. THE NVA ALSO ASKED THE CAMP
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COMMANDER TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM BY RADIO BETWEEN 0900 AND 2100 APRIL 14. CONGEN BIEN HOA REPORTS THE CAMP COMMANDER WILL NOT RESPOND UNLESS ORDERED TO DO SO BY MR 3 CG LTG MINH, AND POINTS OUT THAT MINH CANNOT ISSUE SUCH ORDERS UNTIL PRESIDENT THIEU CHANGES THE DIRECTIVE THAT FORBIDS CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY AT LEVELS LOWER THAN DIVISION.

2. ELSEWHERE IN MR 3, SOME FIGHTING TOOK PLACE IN ALL PROVINCES EXCEPT LONG AN, GIA DINH, AND BINH TUY, WITH THE MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE AND ALONG INTER-PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY 2 IN LONG KHANH AND PHUOC TUY PROVINCES.

PART VIII: MR 4

1. CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES APRIL 7-14 DECLINED SOMEWHAT FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK WHICH HAD SEEN THE DELTA'S HEAVIEST POST-CEASEFIRE FIGHTING. GVN LOSSES WERE 130 KIA, 836 WIA, AND 38 MIA. THE VC/ NVA LOST 406 KIA AND 9 CAPTURED ON APRIL 7-14. FOLLOWING A PATTERN BEGUN IN MID- MARCH, VC/ NVA ACTIVITY TAPERED OFF OVER THE WEEKEND. THE CYCLE REACHED ITS PEAK ON FRIDAY, APRIL 13, WITH 73 VC/ NVA INITIATED INCIDENTS. INCIDENTS DROPPED TO 61 ON APRIL 14 AND 41 ON APRIL 15. ENEMY ACTIVITY WAS CONCENTRATED IN CHUONG THIEN, FOLLOWED BY KIEN PHONG AND DINH TUONG. A TAN CHAU CITY SCHOOL WAS ROCKETED APRIL 14 KILLING ONE CIVILIAN AND WOUNDING SEVEN CHILDREN. THIS ONCE PROSPEROUS DISTRICT TOWN IN CHAU DOC HAS BEEN ATTACKED MORE THAN

20 TIMES BY ROCKET AND MORTAR FIRE SINCE THE CEASEFIRE.

2. THE REMAINDER OF THE MEKONG CONVOY, WHICH HAD BEEN STALLED FOR A WEEK AT TAN CHAU, FINALLY ENTERED CAMBODIA AT 1045 APRIL 15 UNDER COVER OF FORTY NAVAL PATROL BOATS, PLUS HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS AND A-37'S. A REGIMENT OF THE 9TH ARVN DIVISION HAD CLEARED PART OF THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG IN SHARP FIGHTING DURING THE WEEK. EIGHT MERCHANT VESSELS RESUMED THEIR JOURNEY FROM TAN CHAU, WITH THE CAPTAIN OF THE NINTH, A TANKER, DEMURRING. SHORTLY BEFORE REACHING THE CAMBODIAN BORDER, A MORTAR STRUCK AND SANK AN AMMUNITION BARGE, BUT THE SEVEN REMAINING VESSELS CONTINUED TO PHNOM PENH.

3. ACCORDING TO THE REGION VII CANADIAN DELEGATION CHIEF, THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO THWART THE NEW "GO IT ALONE WHEN NECESSARY" POLICY THAT THE CANADIANS AND
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INDONESIANS PRACTICE. RECENTLY, FOR THOSE INVESTIGATIONS THAT THEY HAD NOT JOINED, THE COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN TAKING THE DRAFT CANADIAN AND INDONESIAN REPORTS AND REBUTTING THEM, OFTEN SPECIOUSLY, LINE BY LINE. IN RESPONSE, THE CANADIANS HAVE CAREFULLY SCREENED THE POUCHES, EXTRACTING THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN REBUTTALS, ARGUING THAT THE DOCUMENTS HAD NOT BEEN PROPERLY CLEARED THROUGH THE PRESENT INDONESIAN CHAIRMAN. IN THE FUTURE, HOWEVER, THE CANADIANS WILL RELEASE NO MORE REPORTS OF THEIR OWN INVESTIGATIONS TO THE POLISH AND HUNGARIAN DELEGATIONS. IN DESCRIBING THESE LATEST COMMUNIST TACTICS, THE REGION VII CANADIAN CHIEF COMMENTED: "IF THEY WANT TO WRITE REBUTTALS, THEY CAN COME ALONG ON THE INVESTIGATION".

4. THE VINH LONG (REGION VII) AND GIONG TROM (REGION VI) ICCS TEAMS CONDUCTED APRIL 10 AND 12 THEIR FIRST INVESTIGATIONS, BOTH MINUS THE POLES. THE GIONG TROM INVESTIGATION INVOLVED THE APRIL 10 KIDNAPPING OF TEN HIGH-SCHOOL AGE PSDF IN TRUC GIANG DISTRICT, KIEN HOA.

5. THE 9TH ARVN DIVISION G-2 TOLD A VICE CONSUL APRIL 10 THAT ONE OF THE RECENT VC/NVA OBJECTIVES IN THE HONG NGU AREA IS PROBABLY TO DIVERT ARVN FORCES FROM THE CRUCIAL INFILTRATION ROUTE ALONG THE KIEN TUONG/KIEN PHONG BORDER INTO DINH TUONG. ACCORDING TO THE G-2, ABOUT FIFTY TONS OF AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIES-- BUT NO NEW TROOPS-- HAVE MOVED ALONG THIS CORRIDOR FROM CAMBODIA OVER THE PAST THREE WEEKS TO SUPPORT THE SIX MAIN FORCE REGIMENTS OPERATING IN DINH TUONG. THE G-2 CONTINUED THAT IN ADDITION TO MAINTAINING SUPPLY LINES, THE HONG NGU CAMPAIGN ALSO IS INTENDED TO CUT MEKONG RIVER TRAFFIC TO PHNOM PENH, IN THE PROCESS ESTABLISHING A VC/NVA ENTRY POINT, AND TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE POPULATION IN NORTHERN HONG NGU DISTRICT. CONGEN CAN THO COMMENT: THE REPORTED NEW

VC/ NVA RESUPPLY EFFORTS FOR DINH TUONG ARE PART OF THE MAJOR BUILDUP WHICH HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE IN THE DELTA. CONTROL OF THE LONG- CONTESTED WESTERN PORTION OF DINH TUONG WAS ONE OF THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES OF THE VC/ NVA IN THE 1972 OFFENSIVE, AND VC/ NVA FORCES HAVE CONTINUED AFTER THE CEASEFIRE TO ATTACK RVNAF POSITIONS IN THIS AREA, WHICH HAS THE DELTA'S LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF MAIN FORCES .

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